

Sherwood Middle School Summer Reading 2013
Letter to Parents

May 2013

Dear Families,

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of the middle school summer reading program is *to foster a love of reading*. Reading over the summer can also help students to maintain or even improve their reading skills. In order to meet the needs of each students' reading skills and interests, the Sherwood summer reading lists contain a variety of genres at various reading levels. Students should be encouraged to read books that match their level of comprehension. All books are listed by reading level (level 3 = challenging, level 2 = average, level 1 = easy).

There are no required novels for grades 5 and 6. Students may select books from the entire Sherwood Middle School Summer Reading List, or from the list of recommended authors at the bottom of the list.

Parents and students may access the list from the Shrewsbury Public Schools web site, <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>. Scroll over the "Teaching and Learning" heading and then follow the drop down box choices to "Curriculum" and then "Summer Reading 2013". All reading lists may be downloaded from this location. Additionally, a paper copy of the list will be available in the main office of Sherwood Middle School, at the school department office in town hall, and at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

The school year will begin with activities and discussions related to summer reading books. All students are expected to select and read **three** books. Although it is not required, we recommend that students use strategies to help them to engage in the text. Some strategies may include keeping a reading journal or using sticky notes to annotate the book. Students may also benefit from reading the same title as a friend or family member and engaging in ongoing discussions about the book. On the website, there is a "How to Annotate Guide" for specific information about the annotating process.

Summer reading books should be selected according to interest and independent reading ability. If your child is struggling with a book, please have them try another text that more comfortably fits their independent reading level. If your child is having difficulty finding an appropriate selection, please contact Lisa Daly (ldaly@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) and further accommodations may be discussed.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!